

Hunter College Site for UNO Will Be Urged on O'Dwyer

Bronx Property Held 'Ideally Suited' for Interim Needs—Lyons Will Ask Prompt Action by Mayor.

Mayor O'Dwyer will be urged at a conference today at City Hall with United Nations officials to use his good offices to make available the Bronx Center of Hunter College as an interim home for the Security Council, despite the expressed opposition of Dr. George N. Shuster, president of the college, it was learned yesterday.

With the Security Council meeting little more than three weeks off—the date has been set tentatively as March 21—the three ranking UNO officials here to canvass sites were frankly at their wits' ends in their search for suitable quarters. Arthur David Kemp Owen of Great Britain, executive assistant to Secretary General Trygve Lie of Norway, is to recommend a site to his chief in London before this week is out, but he was in the position of having found a site that "suits almost perfectly"—the Bronx Hunter College buildings—but he could not report that it was available.

Neither he nor the two other officials, A. H. Feller, general

counsel to Mr. Lie, and Geoffrey Wilson, a member of the secretariat, wish to be put in a position of pressing for any quarters to which there is opposition, it was explained, but they feel the five Hunter College buildings, with their assembly halls of various size and living quarters for the secretariat all in a group, "might well have been specifically designed for our purposes."

Bronx Borough President James J. Lyons, who conducted the UNO officials on an inspection tour of the buildings Saturday with Grover A. Whalen, chairman of the Mayor's UNO committee, said last night that only Mayor O'Dwyer's opposition could stop the UNO from locating on the uptown college grounds.

"I am going to see the Mayor today at a special meeting of the Board of Estimate on the transit situation," Mr. Lyons said, "and urge him to get it through right away. I do not know how he feels

Continued on Page 5, Column 3

Use of Hunter College by UNO Will Be Pressed Upon O'Dwyer

Continued From Page 1

about it but I am sure he will back up Mr. Whalen, who was enthusiastic."

"We are not going to have any difficulties, despite Dr. Shuster's opposition. He can't run the college if he doesn't get appropriations. It is more important, in my opinion, to take care of the peace of the world and have the UNO personnel properly housed than it is to take care of any immediate educational matters."

The buildings could be made available in a week or ten days, Mr. Lyons stated, if approval is voted by the Board of Estimate. He suggested that an agreement similar to the one reached with the Navy, which until Feb. 1 utilized the buildings as a training center for Waves, might be put through. The Navy lease, he recalled, was voted at a special meeting.

"Once they (the UNO) are in," Mr. Lyons predicted, "they will never leave. They will forget all about Greenwich and Stamford and it will be their permanent headquarters."

Mr. Owen discussed the Hunter College site with Dr. Ordway Tead, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, which has jurisdiction over city colleges, at a tea held yesterday in Mr. Tead's home. The talks were said "officially" to have been "informal and very friendly" but it was understood Mr. Owen had made considerable progress in convincing Dr. Tead of the urgent need for the buildings. On Saturday Dr. Tead had indicated opposition unless the city provided equivalent educational facilities.

Not Immediately Required

Both Mr. Lyons and an official of UNO pointed out that the buildings and living quarters, now vacant for the most part would not be required by the college until the fall term in September. The UNO informant stressed the urgency of his organization's housing problem which he said was divided into two parts — accommodations first for the Security Council meeting, to be followed by meetings of the Economic and Social Council at the end of May and other agencies during the summer, and second, the larger Assembly meeting set for Sept. 3.

Based on its London experience, the UNO requires for the Security Council meeting a hall with a capacity of at least 500 persons and up to 1,000, it was stated. Accommodations must be made for the delegates from the eleven nations represented, each with an average of ten advisers and experts, a secretariat numbering between 200 and 250, translators and stenotyp-

ists, the press, and a nominal number of the public.

At the London meeting in Church House, which held 600 persons, some twenty-five or fifty were admitted to the public benches. The United States delegation alone numbered close to 100.

Secretariat Already Moving

The secretariat, it was pointed out, has already begun moving here from London, with no promised accommodations except the reserving of a certain number of rooms by member hotels of the Hotel Association of New York. Twenty-five of the secretariat en route here were last reported in Bermuda held up by bad flying weather. They were expected to arrive some time today. Three other groups are due to come here in the next month. By the time of the September meeting, it was estimated, the secretariat is likely to number nearly 1,000 persons.

As matters now stand, in addition to the Hunter College buildings, the UNO site finders will report on the Sperry plant at Lake Success in Nassau; the Whitelaw Reid mansion in east midtown; the Empire State Building and the Center Theatre in Rockefeller Center. The Metropolitan Life annex has been virtually eliminated.

As for permanent quarters, well-informed opinion in UNO circles here yesterday said the organization would ultimately take at least five square miles and up to ten or twelve, but not the forty originally proposed. The final location favored was said to be in North Stamford, taking in the Mianus River Gorge.

Press arrangements for both the forthcoming Security Council and the Assembly meetings constitute a major headache for secretariat officials, it was admitted. The set-up calls for a deputy secretary-general to be in charge of public information, with his own assistants and staff. There will be, too, officials appointed as press liaison men, others to take care of radio matters, publications and kindred matters. But neither the top officials nor the others have as yet been appointed. While there has been talk of appointing an official to handle the press at the Security Council meeting, no such appointment has been made.

It is expected that 1,500 newspaper men will cover the meetings here of the Assembly, almost as many as the delegates and secretariat of the fifty-one nations combined, and officials remembering the San Francisco Conference when every columnist, radio announcer and publicity agent demanded credentials as an accredited reporter, shook their heads in dismay.